

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

- 1-2. (Canceled).
3. (Currently Amended): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim [4]  
8, wherein the ion is a nitrogen ion.
4. (Canceled).
5. (Currently Amended): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to ~~any one~~  
of claim 8 ~~claims 1 or 3~~, wherein the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is dehydrogenated in  
advance.
- 6-7. (Canceled).
8. (Currently Amended): An ultra-low carbon stainless steel which comprises a seal  
function layer in a surface layer,  
wherein the seal function layer is formed by an ion implantation method, and  
the ultra-low carbon stainless steel contains carbon in an amount

~~The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 1, wherein the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is limited to 0.006% to 0.008% by weight.~~

9. (Currently Amended): A member with a seal function, the member comprising an  
~~The ultra-low carbon stainless steel~~ containing carbon in an amount limited to 0.006% to 0.008%  
by weight, according to claim 1, wherein the seal function layer is ~~applied to one of a seal valve~~  
~~or pipe joint~~ formed by ion implantation on the surface of the ultra-low carbon stainless steel.

10. (New): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 8, wherein the seal function layer is within a range of 200 nm from the surface layer.

11. (New): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 8, wherein the seal function layer is within a range of 100 nm from the surface layer.

12. (New): The ultra-low carbon stainless steel according to claim 8, wherein the surface accuracy of the ultra-low carbon stainless steel is 7 to 24 nm in the average roughness and 47 to 141 nm in the peak of the roughest irregularity.